

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
7 April 2005 (07.04.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2005/030913 A1**

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **C10M 163/00** //  
(C10M 163/00, 129:76, 133:56, 159:22) (C10M 163/00,  
129:76, 133:56, 159:24), C10N 10:02, 10:04, 30:08,  
30:10, 40:25

(74) Agents: **SHOLD, DAVID M.** et al.; The Lubrizol Corpo-  
ration, 29400 Lakeland Boulevard, Wickliffe, OH 44092  
(US).

(21) International Application Number:  
PCT/US2004/030685

(22) International Filing Date:  
17 September 2004 (17.09.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(81) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every  
kind of national protection available*): AE, AG, AL, AM,  
AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN,  
CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI,  
GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE,  
KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD,  
MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG,  
PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM,  
TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM,  
ZW.

(30) Priority Data:  
10/670,889 25 September 2003 (25.09.2003) US

(84) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every  
kind of regional protection available*): ARIPO (BW, GH,  
GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM,  
ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),  
European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI,  
FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI,  
SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ,  
GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

(71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*): **THE LU-  
BRIZOL CORPORATION** [US/US]; 29400 Lakeland  
Boulevard, Wickliffe, OH 44092 (US).

(72) Inventors: **PATEL, Jayram D.**; 34107 Glen Drive, East-  
lake, OH 44095 (US). **CARRICK, Virginia A.**; 11500  
Boxwood Circle, Chardon, OH 44024 (US).

**Published:**  
— with international search report

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (*for US only*): **BARNES, W. Preston**  
[US/US]; 7325 Arbor Glenn Place, Concord, OH 44060  
(US).

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-  
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-  
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

(54) Title: **ASHLESS STATIONARY GAS ENGINE LUBRICANT**

(57) Abstract: A low-ash, low-phosphorus lubricant composition suitable for use in a stationary gas engine includes an oil of lubri-  
cating viscosity, 1.0 to 8 percent of a succinimide dispersant, 0.8 to 4.0 percent of a hindered, ester-substituted phenol antioxidant, and  
at least one metal or ammonium-containing sulfonate detergent or metal or ammonium-containing phenate detergent, in an amount  
which provides 0.1 to 3.0 percent by weight of said sulfonate or phenate moieties exclusive of the weight of the metal or ammonium  
moieties. The lubricant contains up to 0.08 percent by weight phosphorus and up to 0.2 percent sulfated ash.

TITLE

## ASHLESS STATIONARY GAS ENGINE LUBRICANT

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 [0001] The present invention relates to lubricating oil compositions which provide high performance standards particularly in stationary gas engines.

[0002] There is continuous need for improving the performance characteristics of engines, in particular stationary gas engines, and the lubricating oils used therein. Stationary gas engines are typically large, heavy  
10 duty, stationary engines designed to run on natural gas and other like fuels. Trends in such engines include the development of smaller four-cycle, lean burning engines, for which high performance lubricants are important.

[0003] There has been a great deal of research reported on various lubricant formulations to solve specific problems. For example, U.S. Patent 5,259,967,  
15 Ripple, November 9, 1993, discloses a lubricating oil composition providing less than 1% sulfated ash, comprising an additive package of a carboxylic dispersant, a rust inhibiting mixture, a hydrocarbyl substituted phenol, and a neutralized acid or phenol. The lubricant can be used in gasoline and diesel engines.

20 [0004] European Patent Publication EP 725129 A, August 7, 1996, discloses a low sulfated ash lubricating oil composition comprising an oil of lubricating viscosity, a calcium overbased acidic material, a magnesium overbased material, and a combination of an alkylene-coupled hindered phenol antioxidant and another antioxidant, particularly useful for lubricating stationary gas engines.

25 [0005] PCT Patent Publication WO 01/74978, October 11, 2001, discloses compositions suitable for use as lubricant additives which contain an ester-substituted hindered phenol antioxidant and other additives suitable for lubricants such as a detergent or a dispersant.

30 [0006] U.S. Patent 6,147,035, Sougawa et al, November 24, 2000, discloses a lubricating oil composition containing overbased metal salicylate, amine antioxidant, phenol antioxidant, polyalkenylsuccinimide, and zinc dialkyldithiophosphate. The lubricant is suitable as a long-life engine oil for gas engine heat pumps.

35 [0007] Many stationary gas lubricant formulations produce an undesirable amount of piston deposits which can lead to port blocking during field use. It has been observed that a correlation exists between high levels of nitration of

the lubricant during service, and these unacceptable piston deposits. The present invention focuses on improving piston deposits in such engines by way of reducing the extent of nitration of the lubricant.

#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

5 [0008] The present invention also provides a method of lubricating a stationary gas engine, comprising:

A low-ash, low-phosphorus lubricant composition suitable for use in a two-cycle stationary gas engine, comprising:

- (a) an oil of lubricating viscosity;
- 10 (b) about 1.0 to about 8.0 percent by weight of a succinimide dispersant;
- (c) about 0.2 to about 4.0 percent by weight of a hindered phenol antioxidant;
- (d) at least one metal or ammonium-containing sulfonate
- 15 detergent or metal-or ammonium containing phenate detergent having a Total Base Number of up to about 100 on an oil free basis, in an amount which provides about 0.1 to about 3.0 percent by weight of sulfonate or phenate moieties exclusive of the weight of metal or ammonium moieties,
- [0009] wherein said lubricant contains up to about 0.08 percent by weight
- 20 phosphorus and up to about 0.2 percent sulfated ash.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0010] Various preferred features and embodiments will be described below  
25 by way of non-limiting illustration.

[0011] The lubricants of the present invention include crankcase lubricating oils for spark-ignited and compression-ignited internal combustion engines, including automobile and truck engines, two-cycle engines, aviation piston engines, and marine and railroad diesel engines. They can also be used in gas  
30 engines, stationary power engines, and turbines. Automatic transmission fluids, transaxle lubricants, gear lubricants, metal-working lubricants, hydraulic fluids and other lubricating oil and grease compositions can also benefit from the incorporation therein of the compositions of the present invention.

[0012] The Oil of Lubricating Viscosity. Oils of lubricating viscosity include  
35 natural and synthetic lubricating oils and mixtures thereof.

[0013] Natural oils include animal oils and vegetable oils (e.g., castor oil, lard oil) as well as liquid petroleum oils and solvent-treated or acid-treated mineral lubricating oils of the paraffinic, naphthenic or mixed paraffinic-naphthenic types. Oils of lubricating viscosity derived from coal or shale are also useful base oils. Synthetic lubricating oils include hydrocarbon oils such as polymerized and interpolymerized olefins (e.g., polybutylenes, polypropylenes, propylene-isobutylene copolymers, poly(1-hexenes, poly(1-octenes), poly(1-decenes), and mixtures thereof); alkylbenzenes (e.g., dodecylbenzenes, tetradecylbenzenes, dinonylbenzenes, and di(2-ethylhexyl)-benzenes); polyphenyls (e.g., biphenyls, terphenyls, and alkylated polyphenyls), alkylated diphenyl ethers and alkylated diphenyl sulfides and the derivatives, analogs, and homologs thereof.

[0014] Alkylene oxide polymers and interpolymers and derivatives thereof where the terminal hydroxyl groups have been modified by esterification, etherification, or similar reaction constitute another class of known synthetic lubricating oils. These are exemplified by the oils prepared through polymerization of ethylene oxide or propylene oxide, the alkyl and aryl ethers of these polyoxyalkylene polymers

[0015] Another suitable class of synthetic lubricating oils comprises the esters of dicarboxylic acids (e.g., phthalic acid, succinic acid, alkyl succinic acids and alkenyl succinic acids, maleic acid, azelaic acid, suberic acid, sebacic acid, fumaric acid, adipic acid, linoleic acid dimer, malonic acid, alkyl malonic acids, and alkenyl malonic acids) with a variety of alcohols (e.g., butyl alcohol, hexyl alcohol, dodecyl alcohol, 2-ethylhexyl alcohol, ethylene glycol, diethylene glycol monoether, and propylene glycol). Specific examples of these esters include dibutyl adipate, di(2-ethylhexyl sebacate, di-n-hexyl fumarate, dioctyl sebacate, diisooctyl azelate, diisodecyl azelate, dioctyl phthalate, didecyl phthalate, dieicosyl sebacate, the 2-ethylhexyl diester of linoleic acid dimer, and the complex ester formed by reacting one mole of sebacic acid with two moles of tetraethylene glycol and two moles of 2-ethylhexanoic acid.

[0016] Esters useful as synthetic oils also include those made from C<sub>5</sub> to C<sub>12</sub> monocarboxylic acids and polyols and polyol ethers such as neopentyl glycol, trimethylolpropane, pentaerythritol, dipentaerythritol, and tripentaerythritol. Esters can also be monoesters, such as are available under the trade name Priolube 1976™ (C<sub>18</sub>-alkyl-COO-C<sub>20</sub> alkyl).

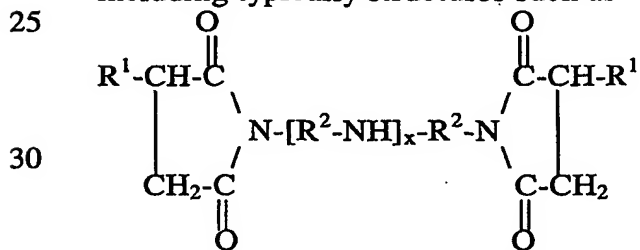
[0017] Unrefined, refined and rerefined oils (and mixtures of each with each other) of the type disclosed hereinabove can be used in the lubricant

compositions of the present invention. Other oils that can be used are oils prepared from a gas-to-liquid process such as those involving Fischer-Tropsch processing.

5 [0018] The amount of lubricating oil in a fully formulated lubricant of the present invention (including the diluent or carrier oils present in additive packages) is typically 80 to 99.5 weight percent, preferably 85 to 96 weight percent, and more preferably 90 to 95 weight percent. The lubricating oil can also be used to prepare concentrates containing the additives of the present invention in higher concentrations. The amount of such oil in a concentrate is 10 typically 20 to 80 weight percent.

[0019] The Succinimide Dispersant. Succinimide dispersants are well known in the field of lubricants and include primarily what are sometimes referred to as “ashless” dispersants because (prior to mixing in a lubricating composition) they do not contain ash-forming metals and they do not normally contribute any ash forming metals when added to a lubricant. Succinimide dispersants are the reaction product of a hydrocarbyl substituted succinic acylating agent with an organic hydroxy compound or, preferably, an amine containing at least one hydrogen attached to a nitrogen atom, or a mixture of said hydroxy compound and amine. The term “succinic acylating agent” refers to a hydrocarbon-substituted succinic acid or succinic acid-producing compound (which term also encompasses the acid itself). Such materials typically include hydrocarbyl-substituted succinic acids, anhydrides, esters (including half esters) and halides.

**[0020]** Succinic based dispersants have a wide variety of chemical structures including typically structures such as



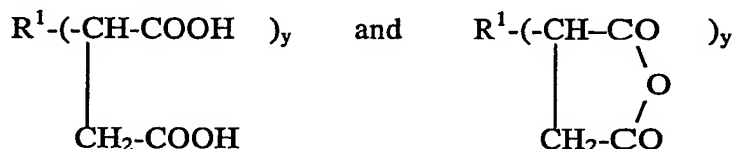
In the above structure, each  $R^1$  is independently a hydrocarbyl group, preferably a polyolefin-derived group having an  $\overline{M}_n$  of 500 or 700 to 10,000. Typically the hydrocarbyl group is an alkyl group, frequently a polyisobutyl group with a molecular weight of 500 or 700 to 5000, preferably 1500 or 2000 to 5000. Alternatively expressed, the  $R^1$  groups can contain 40 to 500 carbon atoms and preferably at least 50, e.g., 50 to 300 carbon atoms, preferably aliphatic carbon atoms. The  $R^2$  are alkylene groups, commonly ethylene ( $C_2H_4$ ) groups. Such

molecules are commonly derived from reaction of an alkenyl acylating agent with a polyamine, and a wide variety of linkages between the two moieties is possible beside the simple imide structure shown above, including a variety of amides and quaternary ammonium salts. Succinimide dispersants are more fully described in U.S. Patents 4,234,435 and 3,172,892.

[0021] The polyalkenes from which the substituent groups are derived are typically homopolymers and interpolymers of polymerizable olefin monomers of 2 to 16 carbon atoms; usually 2 to 6 carbon atoms.

[0022] The olefin monomers from which the polyalkenes are derived are polymerizable olefin monomers characterized by the presence of one or more ethylenically unsaturated groups (i.e.,  $>C=C<$ ); that is, they are mono-olefinic monomers such as ethylene, propylene, 1-butene, isobutene, and 1-octene or polyolefinic monomers (usually diolefinic monomers) such as 1,3-butadiene, and isoprene. These olefin monomers are usually polymerizable terminal olefins; that is, olefins characterized by the presence in their structure of the group  $>C=CH_2$ . Relatively small amounts of non-hydrocarbon substituents can be included in the polyolefin, provided that such substituents do not substantially interfere with formation of the substituted succinic acid acylating agents.

[0023] Each  $R^1$  group may contain one or more reactive groups, e.g., succinic groups, thus being represented (prior to reaction with the amine) by structures such as

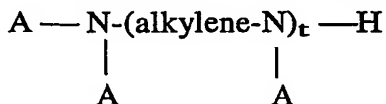


in which  $y$  represents the number of such succinic groups attached to the  $R^1$  group. In one type of dispersant,  $y = 1$ . In another type of dispersant,  $y$  is greater than 1, preferably greater than 1.3 or greater than 1.4; and most preferably  $y$  is equal to or greater than 1.5. Preferably  $y$  is 1.4 to 3.5, especially 1.5 to 3.5 and most especially 1.5 to 2.5. Fractional values of  $y$ , of course, can arise because different specific  $R^1$  chains may be reacted with different numbers of succinic groups.

[0024] The amines which are reacted with the succinic acylating agents to form the carboxylic dispersant composition can be monoamines or polyamines. In either case they will be characterized by the formula  $R^4R^5NH$  wherein  $R^4$

and R<sup>5</sup> are each independently hydrogen, or hydrocarbon, amino-substituted hydrocarbon, hydroxy-substituted hydrocarbon, alkoxy-substituted hydrocarbon, amino, carbamyl, thiocarbamyl, guanyl, and acylimidoyl groups provided that no more than one of R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> is hydrogen. In all cases, therefore, they will be characterized by the presence within their structure of at least one H-N< group. Therefore, they have at least one primary (i.e., H<sub>2</sub>N-) or secondary amino (i.e., H-N<) group. Examples of monoamines include ethylamine, diethylamine, n-butylamine, di-n-butylamine, allylamine, isobutylamine, cocoamine, stearylamine, laurylamine, methyl-laurylamine, oleylamine, N-methyl-octylamine, dodecylamine, and octadecylamine.

[0025] The polyamines from which the dispersant is derived include principally alkylene amines conforming, for the most part, to the formula



wherein t is an integer preferably less than 10, A is hydrogen or a hydrocarbyl group preferably having up to 30 carbon atoms, and the alkylene group is preferably an alkylene group having less than 8 carbon atoms. The alkylene amines include principally methylene amines, ethylene amines, hexylene amines, heptylene amines, octylene amines, other polymethylene amines. They are exemplified specifically by: ethylene diamine, diethylene triamine, triethylene tetramine, propylene diamine, decamethylene diamine, octamethylene diamine, di(heptamethylene) triamine, tripropylene tetramine, tetraethylene pentamine, trimethylene diamine, pentaethylene hexamine, di(trimethylene) triamine. Higher homologues such as are obtained by condensing two or more of the above-illustrated alkylene amines likewise are useful. Tetraethylene pentamines is particularly useful.

[0026] The ethylene amines, also referred to as polyethylene polyamines, are especially useful. They are described in some detail under the heading "Ethylene Amines" in Encyclopedia of Chemical Technology, Kirk and Othmer, Vol. 5, pp. 898-905, Interscience Publishers, New York (1950).

[0027] Hydroxyalkyl-substituted alkylene amines, i.e., alkylene amines having one or more hydroxyalkyl substituents on the nitrogen atoms, likewise are useful. Examples of such amines include N-(2-hydroxyethyl)ethylene diamine, N,N'-bis(2-hydroxy-ethyl)-ethylene diamine, 1-(2-hydroxyethyl)-piperazine, monohydroxypropyl-piperazine, di-hydroxypropyl-substituted tetra-

ethylene pentamine, N-(3-hydroxypropyl)-tetra-methylene diamine, and 2-heptadecyl-1-(2-hydroxyethyl)-imidazoline.

5 [0028] Higher homologues, such as are obtained by condensation of the above-illustrated alkylene amines or hydroxy alkyl-substituted alkylene amines through amino radicals or through hydroxy radicals, are likewise useful. Condensed polyamines are formed by a condensation reaction between at least one hydroxy compound with at least one polyamine reactant containing at least one primary or secondary amino group and are described in U.S. Patent 5,230,714 (Steckel).

10 [0029] The succinimide dispersant is referred to as such since it normally contains nitrogen largely in the form of imide functionality, although it may be in the form of amine salts, amides, imidazolines as well as mixtures thereof. To prepare the succinimide dispersant, one or more of the succinic acid-producing compounds and one or more of the amines are heated, typically with removal of  
15 water, optionally in the presence of a normally liquid, substantially inert organic liquid solvent/diluent at an elevated temperature, generally in the range of 80°C up to the decomposition point of the mixture or the product; typically 100°C to 300°C.

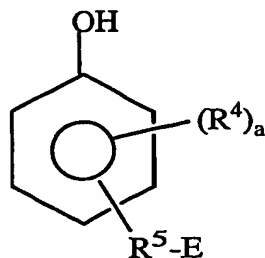
[0030] The succinic acylating agent and the amine (or organic hydroxy compound, or mixture thereof) are typically reacted in amounts sufficient to provide at least one-half equivalent, per equivalent of acid-producing compound, of the amine (or hydroxy compound, as the case may be). Generally, the maximum amount of amine present will be about 2 moles of amine per equivalent of succinic acylating agent. For the purposes of this  
25 invention, an equivalent of the amine is that amount of the amine corresponding to the total weight of amine divided by the total number of nitrogen atoms present. The number of equivalents of succinic acid-producing compound will vary with the number of succinic groups present therein, and generally, there are two equivalents of acylating reagent for each succinic group in the acylating  
30 reagents. Additional details and examples of the procedures for preparing the succinimide dispersants of the present invention are included in, for example, U.S. Pat. Nos. 3,172,892; 3,219,666; 3,272,746; and 4,234,435.

[0031] The dispersants may be borated materials. Borated dispersants are well-known materials and can be prepared by treatment with a borating agent  
35 such as boric acid. Typical conditions include heating the dispersant with boric acid at 100 to 150°C. The dispersants may also be treated by reaction with maleic anhydride as described in WO00/26327 .



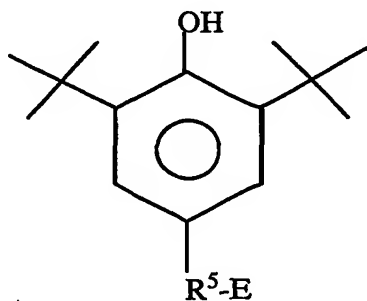
[0032] The amount of the succinimide dispersant in a completely formulated lubricant will typically be 1.0 to 8 percent by weight, preferably 1.1 to 7 percent by weight or 1.2 to 6 percent by weight, and more preferably 2.0 to 5.5 percent by weight. Its concentration in a concentrate will be correspondingly increased to, e.g., 15 to 80 weight percent.

[0033] The Hindered Phenol Antioxidant. Hindered ester-substituted phenol antioxidants are typically alkyl phenols of the formula

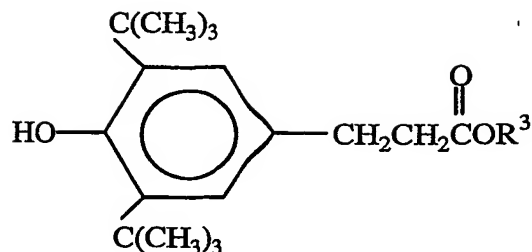


wherein  $R^4$  is an alkyl group containing 1 to 24 carbon atoms and  $a$  is an integer of 1 to 4. Preferably  $R^4$  contains 4 to 18 carbon atoms and most preferably 4 to 12 carbon atoms.  $R^4$  may be either straight chained or branched chained; branched chained is generally preferred. The preferred value for  $a$  is 1 to 4 and most preferred 1 to 3 or, particularly, 2. Preferably the phenol is a butyl substituted phenol containing 2 or 3 t-butyl groups.  $R^5$  is an alkylene group, preferably of 1 to 8 or 2 to 4 carbon atoms, and  $E$  is an ester group, that is,  $-C(O)OR^3$  where  $R^3$  is hydrocarbonyl as further described below.

[0034] When  $a$  is 2, t-butyl groups preferably occupy the 2,6-positions, that is, the phenol is sterically hindered:



[0035] A particularly preferred antioxidant is a hindered, ester-substituted phenol represented by the formula



wherein R<sup>3</sup> is a straight chain or branched chain alkyl group containing 2 to 22 carbon atoms, preferably 2 to 8, 2 to 6, or 4 to 8 carbon atoms and more preferably 4 or 8 carbon atoms. R<sup>3</sup> is desirably a 2-ethylhexyl group or an n-butyl group.

[0036] Hindered, ester-substituted phenols can be prepared by heating a 2,6-dialkylphenol with an acrylate ester under base catalysis conditions, such as aqueous KOH. Such materials and their preparation are described in greater detail in PCT Patent Publication WO 01/74978.

[0037] The amount of the hindered ester-substituted phenol antioxidant is 0.2 to 4.0 percent by weight of the composition, preferably 0.5 or 0.9 or 1 or 1.2 percent, to 3.75 or 3.5 or 3.0 or 2.0 percent. Thus a preferred range could be 1 to 0.75 percent by weight. When used in a concentrate, the amounts will be proportionately higher, e.g., 8 to 40 percent by weight.

[0038] The Metal or Ammonium Containing Detergent. The present invention also includes a metal or ammonium-containing sulfonate detergent or a metal or ammonium containing phenate detergent. Detergents generally are salts, and generally basic alkali or alkaline earth metal salts of an acidic organic compound (that is, the sulfonic acid or phenol). These salts are generally, but not necessarily, overbased materials. Overbased materials are homogeneous Newtonian systems characterized by a metal content in excess of that which would be present according to the stoichiometry of the metal and the particular acidic organic compound reacted with the metal. The amount of excess metal in an overbased detergent is commonly expressed in terms of metal ratio. The term "metal ratio" is the ratio of the total equivalents of the metal (or, in the event of an ammonium detergent, the ammonium moiety) to the equivalents of the acidic organic compound. A neutral metal salt has a nominal metal ratio of about 1, e.g., 1.0 up to 1.5. A salt having 4.5 times as much metal as present in a normal salt will have metal excess of 3.5 equivalents, or a ratio of 4.5.

[0039] The basicity of the overbased materials of the present invention can be expressed in terms of a total base number (ASTM D-2896). A total base

number is the amount of acid (perchloric or hydrochloric) needed to neutralize all of the overbased material's basicity. The amount of acid is expressed as potassium hydroxide equivalents (mg KOH per gram of sample).

5 [0040] The overbased materials are prepared by reacting an acidic material (typically an inorganic acid or lower carboxylic acid, preferably carbon dioxide) with a mixture comprising an acidic organic compound, a reaction medium comprising at least one inert, organic solvent (such as mineral oil, naphtha, toluene, or xylene) for the sulfonic acid or phenol, a stoichiometric excess of a metal or ammonium base, and a promoter.

10 [0041] The sulfonic acids useful in making the detergents of the invention include the sulfonic and thiosulfonic acids. Generally they are salts of sulfonic acids. The sulfonic acids include the mono- or polynuclear aromatic or cycloaliphatic compounds. The oil-soluble sulfonates can be represented for the most part by one of the following formulae:  $R_2-T-(SO_3^-)_a$  and  $R_3-(SO_3^-)_b$ , wherein T is a cyclic nucleus such as, for example, benzene or naphthalene;  $R_2$  is an aliphatic group such as alkyl, alkenyl, alkoxy, or alkoxyalkyl; and  $R_3$  is an aliphatic hydrocarbyl group containing at least 15 carbon atoms.

15 [0042] Illustrative examples of these sulfonic acids include monoeicosanyl-substituted naphthalene sulfonic acids, dodecylbenzene sulfonic acids, didodecylbenzene sulfonic acids, dinonylbenzene sulfonic acids, dilauryl benzenesulfonic acids, and the sulfonic acid derived by the treatment of polybutene having a number average molecular weight ( $\overline{M}_n$ ) in the range of 500 to 5000 with chlorosulfonic acid. Another group of sulfonic acids are mono-, di-, and tri-alkylated benzene and naphthalene sulfonic acids.

20 [0043] Specific examples of oil-soluble sulfonic acids are mahogany sulfonic acids; bright stock sulfonic acids; other substituted sulfonic acids such as alkyl benzene sulfonic acids; and alkaryl sulfonic acids such as dodecyl benzene "bottoms" sulfonic acids. Dodecyl benzene "bottoms" are the material leftover after the removal of dodecyl benzenes that are used to make dodecyl benzene sulfonic acid for household detergents. These materials are generally dialkylated benzenes or benzene alkylated with higher oligomers. The bottoms may be straight-chain or branched-chain alkylates with a straight-chain dialkylate preferred.

25 [0044] The production of sulfonates from detergent manufactured by-products by reaction with, e.g.,  $SO_3$ , is well known to those skilled in the art. See, for example, the article "Sulfonates" in Kirk-Othmer "Encyclopedia of

Chemical Technology", Second Edition, Vol. 19, pp. 291 et seq. published by John Wiley & Sons, N.Y. (1969).

5 [0045] The phenols useful in making the detergents of the present invention can be represented by the formula  $(R_1)_a-Ar-(OH)_b$ , wherein  $R_1$  is a hydrocarbyl group that is directly bonded to the aromatic group Ar.  $R_1$  preferably contains 6 to 80 carbon atoms, preferably 6 to 30 or 8 to 15 or 25 carbon atoms.  $R_1$  groups may be derived from one or more of the above-described polyalkenes. Examples of the  $R_1$  groups include butyl, isobutyl, pentyl, octyl, nonyl, dodecyl, and substituents derived from the above-described polyalkenes such as poly-  
10 ethylenes, polypropylenes, polyisobutylenes, ethylene-propylene copolymers, and oxidized ethylene-propylene copolymers.

[0046] In the above formula, Ar is an aromatic group, and a and b are independently numbers of at least one, the sum of a and b being in the range of two up to the number of displaceable hydrogens on the aromatic nucleus or  
15 nuclei of Ar. Preferably, a and b are each 1 to 4, more preferably 1 to 2. There are preferably an average of at least 8 aliphatic carbon atoms for each phenol compound.

[0047] While the term "phenol" is used herein, it is to be understood that this term is not intended to limit the aromatic group of the phenol to benzene. Accordingly, it is to be understood that the aromatic group as represented by  
20 "Ar", as well as elsewhere in this specification can be mononuclear such as a phenyl, a pyridyl, or a thienyl, or polynuclear of the fused or linked (bridged) type. In particular, "phenol" is intended to encompass hydrocarbyl-substituted bridged and substituted phenolic structures disclosed in greater detail in U.S. Patent 6,310,009 (saligenin derivative detergents) and in U.S. Patent 6,200,936 and PCT publication WO 01/56968 (salixarate detergents), both of which types  
25 generally comprise multiple hydrocarbyl-substituted phenolic aromatic rings bridged with alkylene (e.g., methylene) bridging groups.

[0048] The metal compounds useful in making the basic metal salts are preferably any Group 1 or Group 2 metal compounds (CAS version of the  
30 Periodic Table of the Elements). The Group 1 metals of the metal compound include Group 1a alkali metals (sodium, potassium, lithium, etc.) as well as Group 1b metals such as copper. The Group 1 metals are preferably sodium, potassium, lithium and copper, more preferably sodium or potassium, and more preferably sodium. The Group 2 metals of the metal base include the Group 2a  
35 alkaline earth metals (such as magnesium, calcium, and barium) as well as the Group 2b metals such as zinc or cadmium. Preferably the Group 2 metals are

magnesium, calcium, barium, or zinc, preferably magnesium or calcium, more preferably calcium. Generally the metal compounds are delivered as metal salts. The anionic portion of the salt can be hydroxide, oxide, carbonate, borate, or nitrate. The ammonium portion of the ammonium salt can be ammonium itself  
5 (NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>) or a hydrocarbylammonium (i.e., amine) salt of the formula NR<sub>a</sub>H<sub>4-a</sub><sup>+</sup> where R is a hydrocarbyl group and "a" is 1-4. The term "ammonium" is used herein to encompass all of the foregoing materials. The ammonium portion can also be based on or derived from the amine functionality of a amine-containing dispersant, such as a succinimide dispersant, described above.

10 [0049] Mixtures of sulfonate detergents and phenate detergents can be used, and, indeed, detergents based on other acid substrates (such as carboxylic acids) can also be present. Certain types of substrates may contain both carboxylic and phenolic functionality on the same aromatic ring, e.g., salicylates. Salicylates may be included in the compositions of the present invention, but they are not to  
15 be considered to count as the phenate detergent.

[0050] Patents specifically describing techniques for making basic salts of the above-described sulfonic acids and other acids include U.S. Patents 2,501,731; 2,616,905; 2,616,911; 2,616,925; 2,777,874; 3,256,186; 3,384,585; 3,365,396; 3,320,162; 3,318,809; 3,488,284; and 3,629,109.

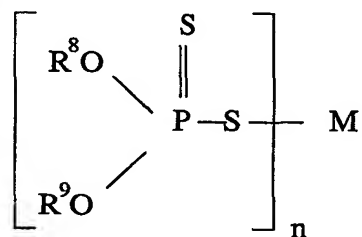
20 [0051] The overbased detergent can also be a borated complex. Borated complexes of this type can be prepared by heating the basic metal detergent with boric acid at 50 – 100°C, the number of equivalents of boric acid being roughly equal to the number of equivalents of metal in the salt. U.S. Patent 3,929,650 discloses borated complexes and their preparation.

25 [0052] The amount of the detergent in the compositions of the present invention is conveniently expressed as the amount of the acid substrate (the sulfonic acid or phenol moiety), exclusive of the weight of the metal or ammonium and other components such as CO<sub>3</sub><sup>-2</sup> which will normally be a part of an overbased detergent. Accordingly, the amount of the substrate should be  
30 0.1 to 3.0 percent by weight of the lubricant formulation, preferably 0.15 to 2.0 percent, and more preferable the upper limit would be 1.1. In a concentrate the amounts will be corresponding increased by, for example, a factor of 10. For the purposes of calculating the amount of acid substrate present, the amount of the hindered phenol antioxidant is not included.

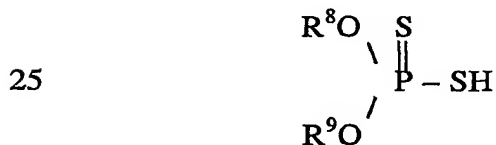
35 [0053] The substrate for the detergent in the present invention can be provided, if desired, in a way which does not provide an undesirable excess of metal to the composition. That is, the detergent can be supplied in a relatively

low TBN formulation, that is, with a relatively low metal ratio. In one embodiment, the detergent (in its commercial form, including the conventional amount of diluent oil, which is typically 40-50% of the detergent formulation) will exhibit a TBN of less than 100 preferably less than 50 and more preferably less than 30. It is sometimes desirable that the amount of metal in the formulation (expressed as Sulfated Ash, ASTM D-874) is up to 0.2 percent by weight or preferably 0.05-0.1 percent by weight. Reasonable lower limits for Sulfated Ash can be 0.02 or 0.03 percent, thus, preferred ranges would be 0.02 to 0.12 percent and 0.03 to 0.1 percent. The Sulfated Ash content will depend on the amount of the metal-containing detergent, as well as all other metal sources.

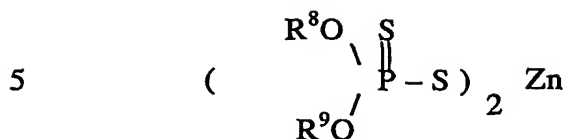
[0054] Optional Materials: The compositions of the present invention may also include, or exclude, other components which are commonly found in lubricating compositions. One such material is a metal salt of a phosphorus acid. Metal salts of the formula



wherein  $\text{R}^8$  and  $\text{R}^9$  are independently hydrocarbyl groups containing 3 to 30 carbon atoms are readily obtainable by the reaction of phosphorus pentasulfide ( $\text{P}_2\text{S}_5$  or  $\text{P}_4\text{S}_{10}$ ) and an alcohol or phenol to form an O,O-dihydrocarbyl phosphorodithioic acid corresponding to the formula



[0055] The reaction involves mixing at a temperature of 20°C to 200°C, four moles of an alcohol or a phenol with one mole of phosphorus pentasulfide. Hydrogen sulfide is liberated in this reaction. The acid is then reacted with a basic metal compound to form the salt. The metal M, having a valence n, generally is aluminum, lead, tin, manganese, cobalt, nickel, zinc, or copper, or most preferably zinc. The basic metal compound is thus preferably zinc oxide, and the resulting metal compound is represented by the formula



10 [0056] The  $\text{R}^8$  and  $\text{R}^9$  groups are independently hydrocarbyl groups that are preferably free from acetylenic and usually also from ethylenic unsaturation. They are typically alkyl, cycloalkyl, aralkyl or alkaryl group and have 3 to 20 carbon atoms, preferably 3 to 16 carbon atoms and most preferably up to 13 carbon atoms, e.g., 3 to 12 carbon atoms. The alcohols which react to provide the  $\text{R}^8$  and  $\text{R}^9$  groups can be one or more primary alcohols, one or more secondary alcohols, a mixture of one or more secondary alcohols and one or more primary alcohols. A mixture of two secondary alcohols such as isopropanol and 4-methyl-2-pentanol is often desirable.

15 [0057] Such materials are often referred to as zinc dialkyldithiophosphates or simply zinc dithiophosphates. They are well known and readily available to those skilled in the art of lubricant formulation. The amount of the metal salt of a phosphorus acid in a completely formulated lubricant, if present, will typically be 0.1 to 5 percent by weight, preferably 0.3 to 2 percent by weight, and more preferably 0.5 to 1.5 percent by weight. Its concentration in a concentrate will be correspondingly increased, to, e.g., 5 to 60 weight percent. It is preferred that 20 in the final formulation the total amount of phosphorus be at most 0.08 percent by weight, preferably 0.07 percent, 0.06 percent, or less. Typically a lubricant may not be entirely free from phosphorus, containing, for instance, 0.005 or 0.01 percent phosphorus.

25 [0058] Another antiwear agent can be a phosphorus acid ester. In one embodiment, the phosphorus acid ester is a di- or trihydrocarbyl phosphite. Preferably each hydrocarbyl group has 1 to 24 carbon atoms, or 1 to 18 carbon atoms, or 2 to 8 carbon atoms. Each hydrocarbyl group may be independently alkyl, aryl, and mixtures thereof. When the hydrocarbyl group is an aryl group, then it contains at least 6 carbon atoms; or 6 to 18 carbon atoms. Examples of 30 the alkyl or alkenyl groups include propyl, butyl, hexyl, heptyl, octyl, oleyl, linoleyl, and stearyl. Examples of aryl groups include phenyl, naphthyl, and heptylphenol. In one embodiment each hydrocarbyl group is independently propyl, butyl, pentyl, hexyl, heptyl, oleyl, or phenyl, more preferably butyl, oleyl, or phenyl and more preferably butyl or oleyl. Phosphites and their

preparation are known and many phosphites are available commercially. Useful phosphites are dibutylhydrogen phosphite, trioleyl phosphite and triphenyl phosphite. In one embodiment the phosphite is the product made by reacting alpha-pinene with phosphorus pentasulfide at a molar ratio of 4:1. The amount of phosphorus ester present is enough to deliver up to 0.1 % by weight of phosphorus to the composition, more preferably 0.01 to 0.08% by weight of phosphorus and most preferred 0.02 to 0.06% by weight of phosphorus. A 0.05% by weight phosphorus package corresponds to a typical phosphorus ester level of 0.5% by weight in a finished fluid formulation.

5 [0059] Other common additives may be used. These include corrosion inhibitors, extreme pressure agents, and anti-wear agents, which include chlorinated aliphatic hydrocarbons; boron-containing compounds including borate esters; and molybdenum compounds. Viscosity improvers include polyisobutenes, polymethacrylate acid esters, polyacrylate acid esters, diene polymers, polyalkyl styrenes, alkenyl aryl conjugated diene copolymers, polyolefins such as ethylene/propylene copolymers, and multifunctional viscosity improvers, including dispersant viscosity modifiers (which impart both dispersancy and viscosity improvement). Pour point depressants are a particularly useful type of additive, often included in the lubricating oils, usually comprise substances such as polymethacrylates, styrene-based polymers, crosslinked alkyl phenols, or alkyl naphthalenes. See for example, page 8 of "Lubricant Additives" by C. V. Smalheer and R. Kennedy Smith (Lesius-Hiles Company Publishers, Cleveland, Ohio, 1967). Friction modifiers are known additives, which can include fatty amines, esters, especially glycerol esters such as glycerol monooleate, borated glycerol esters, fatty phosphites, fatty acid amides, fatty epoxides, borated fatty epoxides, alkoxylated fatty amines, borated alkoxylated fatty amines, metal salts of fatty acids, sulfurized olefins, fatty imidazolines, condensation products of carboxylic acids, polyalkylene-polyamines, amine salts of alkylphosphoric acids and molybdenum dithiocarbamates (Mo IV, V, or VI). Anti-foam agents used to reduce or prevent the formation of stable foam include silicones or organic polymers. Examples of these and additional anti-foam compositions are described in "Foam Control Agents", by Henry T. Kerner (Noyes Data Corporation, 1976), pages 125-162. Many of these and other additives which may be used in combination with the present invention are described in greater detail in U.S. Patent 4,582,618 (column 14, line 52 through column 17, line 16, inclusive).

10  
15  
20  
25  
30  
35



[0060] As used herein, the term "hydrocarbyl substituent" or "hydrocarbyl group" is used in its ordinary sense, which is well-known to those skilled in the art. Specifically, it refers to a group having a carbon atom directly attached to the remainder of the molecule and having predominantly hydrocarbon character.

5 Examples of hydrocarbyl groups include:

[0061] hydrocarbon substituents, that is, aliphatic (e.g., alkyl or alkenyl), alicyclic (e.g., cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl) substituents, and aromatic-, aliphatic-, and alicyclic-substituted aromatic substituents, as well as cyclic substituents wherein the ring is completed through another portion of the molecule (e.g., two substituents together form a ring);

10 [0062] substituted hydrocarbon substituents, that is, substituents containing non-hydrocarbon groups which, in the context of this invention, do not alter the predominantly hydrocarbon nature of the substituent (e.g., halo (especially chloro and fluoro), hydroxy, alkoxy, mercapto, alkylmercapto, nitro, nitroso, and sulfoxy);

15 [0063] hetero substituents, that is, substituents which, while having a predominantly hydrocarbon character, in the context of this invention, contain other than carbon in a ring or chain otherwise composed of carbon atoms. Heteroatoms include sulfur, oxygen, nitrogen, and encompass substituents as pyridyl, furyl, thienyl and imidazolyl. In general, no more than two, preferably no more than one, non-hydrocarbon substituent will be present for every ten carbon atoms in the hydrocarbyl group; typically, there will be no non-hydrocarbon substituents in the hydrocarbyl group.

20 [0064] It is known that some of the materials described above may interact in the final formulation, so that the components of the final formulation may be different from those that are initially added. For instance, metal ions (of, e.g., a detergent) can migrate to other acidic or anionic sites of other molecules. The products formed thereby, including the products formed upon employing the composition of the present invention in its intended use, may not be susceptible of easy description. Nevertheless, all such modifications and reaction products are included within the scope of the present invention; the present invention encompasses the composition prepared by admixing the components described above.

#### EXAMPLES

35 [0065] Example 1. A formulation is prepared in a 650N mineral base oil, comprising the following additive components, amounts expressed in percent by weight:

4.24% high TBN condensed amine succinimide dispersant, containing 40% oil.

1.0% Ca Sulfonate detergent, TBN 13, containing 50% oil.

0.5% Triphenyl phosphite, containing 0% oil

1.0% Hindered phenol-ester antioxidant, commercially available product

5 <0.01% Commercially available silicone defoamer

The formulation contains 0.05 percent by weight phosphorus and 0.5 percent substrate.

10 [0066] Example 2 & 3 are commercially available products comprising dispersant(s), antioxidants and antiwear agents.

[0067] The above formulation(s) are subjected to the panel coker test, which is a test used to indicate deposit buildup. This is a test that involves splashing test oil at 105°C for 4 hours onto an aluminum panel maintained at 325°C. Digital imaging of resulting deposits provides a Universal Rating on a scale of 0-100, with higher ratings indicating better performance. Example 1 formulation has a Universal Rating of 68, while Examples 2 and 3 have Universal Ratings of 3 and 9 respectively. It is clear that the invention highlighted in Example 1 illustrates lower deposit build-up, which is particularly desirable.

20 [0068] The formulations are further subjected to an inhibiting oxidation and nitration test. This is a test that involves adding acid and metal naphthanate to a fully-formulated oil and mixing at high speed for 60 sec. The mixed samples is heated at 145°C and purged with NO<sub>x</sub> for 22 hours. The end-of-test (eot) sample is measured via FTIR for nitro-oxidation components. Note: the delta C=O is the difference between the initial C=O and the eot C=O.

	Example 1 (Invention)	Example 2	Example 3
initial C=O (absorbance/cm <sup>2</sup> )	869	915	647
eot C=O (absorbance/cm <sup>2</sup> )	915	1890	1781
delta C=O	46	975	1134
RONO <sub>2</sub> (absorbance/cm)	12	21	26.3
RNO <sub>2</sub> (absorbance/cm)	1	2.1	1.6

30 The results of the inhibiting oxidation and nitration test show that the invention has a lower delta C=O, RONO<sub>2</sub> and RNO<sub>2</sub> value, which indicates less oxidation and nitration respectively.

[0069] Each of the documents referred to above is incorporated herein by reference. Except in the Examples, or where otherwise explicitly indicated, all numerical quantities in this description specifying amounts of materials, reaction conditions, molecular weights, number of carbon atoms, and the like, are to be understood as modified by the word "about." Unless otherwise indicated, each chemical or composition referred to herein should be interpreted as being a commercial grade material which may contain the isomers, by-products, derivatives, and other such materials which are normally understood to be present in the commercial grade. However, the amount of each chemical component is presented exclusive of any solvent or diluent oil, which may be customarily present in the commercial material, unless otherwise indicated. It is to be understood that the upper and lower amount, range, and ratio limits set forth herein may be independently combined. Similarly, the ranges and amounts for each element of the invention can be used together with ranges or amounts for any of the other elements. As used herein, the expression "consisting essentially of" permits the inclusion of substances that do not materially affect the basic and novel characteristics of the composition under consideration.

What is claimed is:

1. A low-ash, low-phosphorus lubricant composition suitable for use in a two-cycle stationary gas engine, comprising:
  - 5 (a) an oil of lubricating viscosity;
  - (b) 1.0 to 8.0 percent by weight of a succinimide dispersant;
  - (c) 0.2 to 4.0 percent by weight of a hindered phenol antioxidant;
  - (d) at least one metal or ammonium-containing sulfonate detergent or metal-or ammonium containing phenate detergent having a Total  
10 Base Number of up to 100 on an oil free basis, in an amount which provides 0.1 to 3.0 percent by weight of sulfonate or phenate moieties exclusive of the weight of metal or ammonium moieties,  
wherein said lubricant contains up to 0.08 percent by weight phosphorus and up to 0.2 percent sulfated ash.
- 15 2. The composition of claim 1 wherein the succinimide dispersant is the reaction product of a hydrocarbyl succinic anhydride and a condensed polyamine.
3. The composition of claim 1 wherein the hindered phenol antioxidant (c) is a hindered, ester substituted phenol antioxidant.
- 20 4. The composition of claim 1 wherein the amount of the hindered phenol antioxidant (c) is 0.75 to 3.0 percent by weight.
5. The composition of claim 1 wherein the metal in component (d) is calcium.
6. The composition of claim 1 wherein the detergent of (d) has a  
25 Total Base Number of up to 50.
7. The composition of claim 1 wherein the amount of the sulfonate or phenate moieties of detergent of (d) is 0.15 to 2.0 percent by weight of the composition.
8. The composition of claim 1 further comprising a phosphorus  
30 ester.
9. The composition of claim 13, wherein the phosphorus ester is present in an amount suitable to supply up to 0.08 percent by weight of phosphorus to the composition.

10. The lubricant composition of claim 1, said composition having a Total Base Number of up to 5.

11. The composition prepared by combining the components of claim 1.

5 12. A method of lubricating a two-cycle stationary gas engine, comprising supplying to said engine the lubricant composition of claim 1.

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No  
PCT/US2004/030685

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 C10M163/00

/(C10M163/00, 129:76, 133:56, 159:22), (C10M163/00, 129:76, 133:56  
159:24), C10N10:02, 10:04, 30:08, 30:10, 40:25

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 C10M

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 03/048277 A (CHEVRON ORONITE CO) 12 June 2003 (2003-06-12) page 1, line 6 - page 2, line 7 page 4, line 11 - line 23 page 6, line 1 - line 11 page 10, line 20 - page 13, line 30 page 18, line 10 - page 20, line 9 examples 1,2	1-12
A	EP 1 104 800 A (ORONITE JAPAN LTD) 6 June 2001 (2001-06-06) paragraphs '0004! - '0006!, '0015!, '0016!, '0020!, '0025! - '0034!; examples	1-12
A	EP 1 195 426 A (INFINEUM INT LTD) 10 April 2002 (2002-04-10) the whole document	1-12

-/--



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

### \* Special categories of cited documents :

- \*A\* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- \*E\* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- \*L\* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- \*O\* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- \*P\* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- \*T\* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- \*X\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- \*Y\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- \*Z\* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

30 November 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

08/12/2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2  
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk  
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,  
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Keipert, O

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US2004/030685

## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	WO 03/033629 A (KOIZUMI TAKEO ; NIPPON OIL CORP (JP); IGARASHI JINICHI (JP); YAGISHITA) 24 April 2003 (2003-04-24) & EP 1 439 217 A (NIPPON OIL CORP) 21 July 2004 (2004-07-21) paragraphs '0102! - '0107!; claims; tables -----	1-12
A	US 5 726 133 A (BLAHEY ALAN G ET AL) 10 March 1998 (1998-03-10) the whole document -----	1-12

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US2004/030685

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 03048277	A	12-06-2003	US 2003148900 A1 BR 0214513 A CA 2468692 A1 EP 1451274 A1 WO 03048277 A1	07-08-2003 03-11-2004 12-06-2003 01-09-2004 12-06-2003
EP 1104800	A	06-06-2001	JP 2001158896 A CA 2327384 A1 EP 1104800 A2 SG 97992 A1	12-06-2001 02-06-2001 06-06-2001 20-08-2003
EP 1195426	A	10-04-2002	EP 1195425 A1 EP 1195426 A1 CA 2358371 A1 CN 1347969 A JP 2002161292 A SG 102008 A1 US 2002098991 A1	10-04-2002 10-04-2002 05-04-2002 08-05-2002 04-06-2002 27-02-2004 25-07-2002
WO 03033629	A	24-04-2003	JP 2003277781 A JP 2003277782 A JP 2003277783 A EP 1439217 A1 WO 03033629 A1 JP 2003183686 A	02-10-2003 02-10-2003 02-10-2003 21-07-2004 24-04-2003 03-07-2003
EP 1439217	A	21-07-2004	JP 2003277781 A JP 2003277782 A JP 2003277783 A EP 1439217 A1 WO 03033629 A1 JP 2003183686 A	02-10-2003 02-10-2003 02-10-2003 21-07-2004 24-04-2003 03-07-2003
US 5726133	A	10-03-1998	BR 9707706 A CA 2245532 A1 EP 0883667 A1 ID 16053 A WO 9731991 A1	27-07-1999 04-09-1997 16-12-1998 28-08-1997 04-09-1997



**This Page is Inserted by IFW Indexing and Scanning  
Operations and is not part of the Official Record**

**BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES**

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images include but are not limited to the items checked:

- ☐ BLACK BORDERS
- ☐ IMAGE CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
- ☒ FADED TEXT OR DRAWING
- ☐ BLURRED OR ILLEGIBLE TEXT OR DRAWING
- ☐ SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
- ☐ COLOR OR BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS
- ☐ GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS
- ☐ LINES OR MARKS ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
- ☐ REFERENCE(S) OR EXHIBIT(S) SUBMITTED ARE POOR QUALITY
- ☐ OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

**IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.**

**As rescanning these documents will not correct the image problems checked, please do not report these problems to the IFW Image Problem Mailbox.**

**THIS PAGE BLANK (USPTO;**